



Herald Tribune -UPI telephoto
Former President Eisenhower at Gettysburg battlefield yesterday.

Ike Denies He Planned Cuba Attack

Agreed Only to Arm
And Train Refugees

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GETTYSBURG, Pa.

Former President Eisenhower yesterday declared this his Administration had never planned a military operation against Cuba.

He categorically denied the popular rumor that the present Administration merely carried through with invasion plans devised by its predecessor.

Gen. Eisenhower told a gathering of Republican Congressmen at lunch in the Gettysburg Hotel that his Administration had agreed to train and arm hundreds of Cuban refugees. But he said, "there was no operational planning of any kind whatsoever."

Would Keep Door Open

Asked about the Berlin situation, Gen. Eisenhower said there was much for the free world to do there, since the West must make no concessions.

He said that in any negotiations, both sides must be ready to make some concessions, but since the Allies cannot give up their legal right to be in Berlin, there is nothing for them to negotiate now. He emphasized, though, that the West should not slam the door on any talks. He said he believed in "keeping the chairs open and a table there."

Earlier in the morning, he conducted the Congressmen over the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg. He spoke of minnie balls, tactics and the "doubts that prey upon men's minds in time of crisis."

He stood in the shade of the clump of trees on Cemetery Ridge that mark the "high-water mark of the Confederacy" and remarked that Pickett's celebrated charge, given the circumstances, had been "hopeless from the beginning."

Good Tactics Defined

But, he said, Gen. Robert E. Lee could not have known that. Gen. Eisenhower, remembering his own experience as commander of armies, observed that "the only good military tactics are the ones that work." He said it was easy enough to pass judgment almost 100 years after the battle, but it was impossible to know what was "in Lee's mind, or why the battle was fought the way it was."

The Congressmen, all of them newly elected to the House of Representatives, listened patiently to the General's lecture. A few of them made notes.

Gen. Eisenhower, overlooking the now peaceful cornfield through which the Confederate troops rushed, said the Federal troops that defended the ridge "deserve the undying gratitude of all those who are glad the Union was saved, which, I think, is most of us."

He praised the valor of a Minnesota regiment in that fight, and a Minnesota Congressman accepted the compliment for his deceased ancestors.

"Thank you sir," the Congressman said, "for those kind words."

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